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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/531,658

10/27/2006

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EXAMINER

SAIDHA, TEKCHAND

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1652

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/25/2008

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.



**S.N. 10/531,658**

**ART UNIT 1652**

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Election/Restrictions***

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372. Claims 1-20 are present.
2. This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.
3. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-8 & 11-20, drawn to a process for the enzymatic hydrolysis of oils and/or fats with simultaneous enzymatic formation of fatty acid esters using lipases acting as biocatalysts and alcohols, especially n- and iso-alcohols, said process comprising: causing lipases, as biocatalysts for hydrolysis of oil or fat and formation of fatty acid esters in a fat hydrolysis/esterification, are caused to act on a mixture of triglycerides, water, and an alcohol soluble in oil or fat to create a reaction mixture formed in the fat hydrolysis/esterification.

Group II, claim(s) 9-10, drawn to a device for carrying out the process of the enzymatic hydrolysis of oils and/or fats with simultaneous enzymatic formation of fatty acid esters using lipases acting as biocatalysts and alcohols, especially n- and iso-alcohols, said device comprising: at least one or more hydrolysis/esterification reactors for use in a hydrolysis and esterification process.

4. The inventions listed as Groups I-II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical feature for the following reasons: The technical feature linking Groups I-II appears to be that they all relate to enzymatic hydrolysis of oils and/or fats with simultaneous enzymatic formation of fatty acid esters using lipases. According to the international preliminary examination report [IPER], filed 4/15/2005 by the Applicants, claims 1-16 lack novelty as being anticipated by EP 0195311 A (1986) or Buehler et al. (FETT – LIPID, WILEY-VCH VERLAG, WEINHEIM, DE, Vol. 89, No.14, 1987, pages 598-605). Therefore, Groups I-II share no special

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technical feature as defined by PCT Rule 13.2, as it does not define a contribution over the prior art. Accordingly, Groups I-II are not so linked by the same or a corresponding special technical feature as to form a single general inventive concept.

5. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tekchand Saidha whose telephone number is (571) 272 0940. The examiner can normally be reached on 8.30 am - 5.00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nashaat Nashed can be reached on (571) 272 0934. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Tekchand Saidha/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1652

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